



Small Businesses Unite to Revitalize District

Business is blooming in Dayton's Belmont Business District: Four new businesses have opened near the intersection of Watervliet Avenue and Smithville Road since January 1, and three more plan to open in the near future; a foreclosed commercial building has been repaired and is once again on the market; and a community festival held last fall attracted 1,000 visitors. The momentum, says Belmont Business Association President Dave Stanley, results from a re-energized group of small business owners as well as residents who are investing in the future of the neighborhood. Future plans call for installing new benches, planters, signage and lighting to help beautify the area. Two festivals are planned for 2012.



"First Four" to Kick Off With Celebration

March Madness begins in Dayton again in 2012, as the University of Dayton hosts the First Four, the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship first round (March 13 and 14). But you don't have to wait until the tip-off at UD Arena to join in the fun, because the NCAA First Four Festival will come to Dayton's Oregon Arts District on Sunday, March 11. Visitors will enjoy food, music, games, a hot shot competition, a fun run, kids' activities, an Air Force fly-over and "Selection Sunday" tournament announcements on giant screens. Oregon businesses including restaurants, shops and galleries will be open, and large, heated tents



will be set up along East Fifth Street to accommodate fans of all ages.

[Click here to purchase First Four game tickets.](#)

Vision for East Third Includes International Marketplace

Dayton's East Third Street (from Keowee Street to Sperling Avenue) may undergo a dramatic transformation in the years ahead, with the possible addition of new housing, new and renovated commercial structures, enhanced public spaces, transit improvements and an international marketplace. The [new vision for the area](#) results from a May 2011 community meeting coordinated by the University of Cincinnati Community Design Center in cooperation with residents, businesses and City officials. The international marketplace concept is also one of the recommendations of the City of Dayton's immigrant friendly city plan, [Welcome Dayton](#). Elected leaders, community volunteers and City staff are examining the next steps for the East Third proposal, following a presentation to the City Commission on February 1.



Walnut Hills Rehab Ready for New Owner

A three-bedroom home in Dayton's Walnut Hills neighborhood is completely renovated and ready for new owners. The formerly foreclosed property was acquired and renovated by CityWide Development Corporation, the City of Dayton's development partner, using federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. The Arbor Avenue home is one of 13 across the city that have been renovated and returned to the market via the NSP. Mayor Gary Leitzell, Commissioner Nan Whaley and Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith joined in dedicating the home at a February 15 ceremony. For more information, go to www.liveindayton.org.



It's Official: City Joins Land Bank

The City Commission voted February 1 to approve the City of Dayton's participation in the recently formed land bank for Montgomery County. The land bank (formally called the Montgomery County Land Reutilization Corporation) is a non-profit organization that acquires foreclosed and distressed properties, clears up title and tax delinquency issues, and then sells the properties to developers or others for productive re-use. A developer has already indicated interest in three commercial Dayton properties that are land bank candidates. "The land bank is another important tool to support revitalization and investment in our city," said Commissioner Nan Whaley, who advocated for the establishment of a land bank in Montgomery County.

Buying It Right: City Saves Dollars on Equipment



The City of Dayton recently bought a second used ambulance through the online purchasing service www.govdeals.com. The \$15,000 vehicle required about \$5,000 in reconditioning and joined the Fire Department's Medic 14 operation in downtown Dayton. A new ambulance costs up to \$150,000.

First-Year Success for Small Business Program

Dayton's Procurement Enhancement Program (PEP), designed to assist minority, women-owned and small companies looking to do business with the City of Dayton, enjoyed a successful first full year in operation. In 2011, the City was able to award a goods and services contract to a local bidder in 48 percent of the cases when eligible local companies submitted a bid. Of the 185 total bid opportunities for goods and services, 81 had eligible Dayton local companies involved. Of those 81 local companies, 39 (or 48 percent) ultimately received the award. In 13 of those cases, the winning company took advantage of City's local preference factor to earn the job. In 23 percent of the 185 bid opportunities, a company certified as minority, women-owned or small companies earned the award.

"We are off to a good start in using the PEP program to help more local, minority, women-owned or small companies compete for contracts with the City of Dayton," Commissioner Dean Lovelace said. "And since the winning eligible company must agree to match the lower bid under the PEP guidelines, we are able to provide the program without increasing costs to taxpayers."

"How-to" Sessions Help Neighborhoods & Businesses Grow



More than 70 residents and business owners attended the City of Dayton's first Community Engagement Workshop for 2012 on January 31, learning more about working with City development guidelines. Two workshops remain; both will be held at the Cultural Center, 40 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd., with free parking. For more information, contact Verletta Jackson at 937-333-3288 or verletta.jackson@daytonohio.gov.

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